and tractors is being done. Further, modern equipments have been provided to the security forces to keep a close vigil over the area.

Sabotage in North-East Region

5560. PROF.M.SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a lot of reports of sabotage is reported in the entire North-Eastern Region;

(b) what steps Government are taking to curb insurgency in the region;

(c) whether Government are thinking of extending unilateral ceasefire in the region to find an amicable solution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Except for a few incidents by suspected ULFA activists in Assam before the Republic Day, there are no recent reports of sabotage in the North Eastern States.

(b) Steps taken by the Government to combat militancy in the North East include, *inter alia*, deployment of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between the security forces; modernisation/upgradation of State Police forces; reimbursement of security related expenditure; sanction of Special Central Assistance to the State Governments; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as unlawful associations. The situation is also kept under watch and is reviewed from time to time for taking appropriate action.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Facilities for prisoners in Tihar

5561. PROF.M.SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities provided to the various categories of prisoners in accordance with the Jail manual; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some accused are provided or enjoying the facilities of colour TV, fridge and newspapers in Tihar Jail of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) All the prisoners lodged in Central Jail, Tihar are treated equally as the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have abolished the classification of prisoners into 'B' and 'C' class.

(b) None of the prisoners lodged in the Central Jail, Tihar has been provided with any facility in contravention of the relevant rules.

Madarsas in Chamba and Kangra

5562. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have information that ISI is trying to establish its bases in the Muslim dominated areas in the country to foment trouble;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that ISI have set up a number of madarsas (Islamic schools) in Chamba and Kangra Valley of Himachal Pradesh;

(d) if, so the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed to check ISI activities in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Pak ISI is persisting with its efforts to foment trouble in various parts of the country. The activities include infiltration of explosives, drugs and fake currency including training and supporting various anti-nationals and terrorist groups. However, there is no specific input about ISI establishing bases in Muslim dominated areas in India.

(c) and (d) According to available information, some madarsas are being run in districts Kangra and Chamba of Himachal Pradesh. However, it is not established that these are being run by Pak ISI.

(e) In order to check the activities of terrorist and anti-national elements, in bordering areas of Chamba district contiguous to J&K, the State Government has taken various measures including deployment of armed police, gearing up of intelligence machinery, intensified patrolling and constituting Village Defence Committees.

The information received about movement and activities of ISI agents/ antinational elements is shared by the Central/State Agencies to devise strategies to check the situation.